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Mayor Perez Calls on Legislature to Partner with Cities in Resolving Crisis

Hartford- Today, Mayor Eddie A. Perez joined his fellow urban Mayors, labor leaders and child advocates in calling for a more responsible approach to resolving the budget crisis facing our state. "The Governor's proposal asks cities like Hartford, that have made the tough choices to layoff workers and increase revenue, for this fiscal year, to bear the largest share of the burden of fixing the crisis. Significant cuts to public education, as well as fire and police protection, are not a solid basis for crafting a solution to this challenge." Mayor Perez stated.

"There is no question that all of us must be willing to share the burden. However, today's proposal gives the legislature a clear alternative to the plan proposed by the Governor. We are bringing unified support for this proposal to the doors of the legislative leadership and we hope that this proposal will change the context of the dialogue."

The proposal addresses this year's state budget deficit by extracting \$171 million in labor concessions from state labor unions and raising revenues by \$431 million. The revenues include increased taxes on those making over \$500K a year and additional corporate taxes. The proposal for FY 03-04 includes \$628 million in labor concessions and \$905 million in new revenue.

End.